PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

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H. E. THE VICEROY'S MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA.

A CALL TO ACTION.

" I send this message to all men and women who live in this land, whatever their politics, their religion or their race. You will be invited, during the next few weeks, to enrol yourselves in the National War front. The land we live in is threatened with danger.

" This is a call to action for everyone of us. Close the ranks, and stand shoulder to shoulder against an aggressor whose conduct in the peaceful countries, which he has outraged, brands him as barbarous and pitiless.

"The soldiers of India, in many parts of the world, have fought and are fighting gloriously for the safety of their motherland, for the preservation of her ancient inheritance, for the bringing to pass of her hopes for the future.

EVERYONE A SOLDIER.

"To-day the battle-front is of great depth, and each one of us can be a soldier too. Stand steady, encourage the brave, strengthen the faint-hearted, rebuke the babbler and root out the hidden traitor. Make good the defence of the country to-day: go forward to victory tomorrow: for without victory, there is no hope for the survival of free institutions, culture, or kindness, in the world.

"We are members of a worthy company, China, Russia, America, Britain and a score of others: let each one of us in India be worthy of our own country and of our comrades, for thus shall we make our victory swift and sure.

"I confide in your courage."

LECTURE LXXXVI.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Till the Japanese came into the war the matter of Air Raid Precautions had, for most of us in INDIA, little more than an academical interest. Now, however, the position is very different and the people more especially of MADRAS and CALCUTTA have become over-conscious of the possibilities of an air raid, and a good many of them are betraying a nervousness which is by no means warranted by existing circumstances. It is, of course, quite right to be prepared for an attack by the enemy from the air, but there is no need for anything in the way of a panic. It has to be borne in mind that an air raid, as far as present experience goes, cannot be fully effective if the range of attack is over 700 miles, and that the Japanese, who are the enemy whom we have to consider, are as yet far from being within that distance of MADRAS. Even RANGOON is 1,000 miles from MADRAS. MADRAS might be shelled from the sea by a submarine or by a disguised armed raider, but such an attack would have no more than a nuisance value and could do no great

damage. There might also be an attack by aeroplanes brought by sea on an aircraft carrier but such a method of attack, which is not regarded as very probable, would not have the same scope as one by a large party of ordinary bombers. During the attack the aircraft carrier would have to be stationary and that would put it in a very vulnerable position. It is always unsafe to prophesy, but it does not appear that the city of MADRAS has any immediate cause for serious apprehension of an attack from the air.

Still less, of course, has PUDUKKOTTAI which stands well inland and possesses no military objectives to invite an enemy attack, any occasion for apprehension. It has, therefore, no need as yet for the elaborate A. R P. arrangements which are now being made in MADRAS and it is to be hoped that the need will never arise. At the same time it is as well always to be ready for contingencies that may occur and so it is that arrangements are now being made for the training under an A. R. P. officer of a number of wardens, messengers, fire-fighting parties, rescue parties, and first aid parties. It is the warden who is the nucleus of the A. R. P. system, and especially the area warden, and I would like specially to emphasise his importance. The warden's service has, indeed, been rightly called the intelligence system of the entire A. R. P. organisation. The area warden is in charge of a post and in places which are densely populated there should be, at the most, ten posts per square mile. The actual number required will depend upon local conditions. The minimum population to be served by any one post is 2,000. Each post will be divided into sectors, the number of which may be anything from four to ten, and there will be wardens for each sector. Six to eight posts will form a group, which will be under a head warden, and in towns which are big enough there will be divisions of six to eight groups, each division being under a divisional warden. The duties of the superior wardens are largely those of supervision. It is for them to see that the area wardens and those who work with them in their sectors are efficient and carrying out their duties satisfactorily. A high standard is required of these wardens. They have to be of good education, of good status and with influence in the localities which they serve, trustworthy, ready to take responsibility, cool in the presence of an emergency and tactful in dealing with difficult situations. There is plenty for them to do long before the declaration of a state of emergency which involves the possibility of an air raid at any moment. The warden of any area must be thoroughly

acquainted with all its local conditions, such as the people who live in it and which of them can be relied on to give help in an emergency, what buildings are specially likely to catch fire, what sources of water supply are handy, and where are the nearest depots for A. R. P. services, such as for fire fighting, first aid, and rescue work. He should have a training in his duties in the occurrence of a raid, and must teach the people of his area what they have to do should there be a raid, and how it is signified that a raid is imminent. He should also make it his business to interest his friends and neighbours in A. R. P. work, and get as many of them as he can to enlist as volunteers. Never, never, must he be slack.

There should always be at least one warden at each area post. If the area warden has to be away from it he must arrange for the presence there of one or more of his sector wardens. As soon as the warning is given of an approaching raid the warden who remains at the post will be ready to receive reports of any incident and to pass the information on to the report centre. The warning is given by a siren, with what is called a warbling note, a note which goes up and down. A long continuous blast, which goes on for two minutes, signifies that the raiders have passed. While one warden remains at the post, the other wardens of the area will be patrolling, blowing whistles to signify that there is danger about, clearing the streets and doing what they can to help the police in allaying panic. In the case of any incident, they must be ready to deal with it, as far as it is in their power to do so, till the appropriate service can arrive on the scene. What is the nature of any incident and what service is required to deal with it has to be reported by the warden who remains at the post to the report centre, with the greatest clearness and with as little delay as possible. In a place where there are no telephones, these reports will have to be sent by messengers and the messengers should be provided with bicycles. It is, of course, essential that the various services should be thoroughly efficient—it is not necessary here to go in detail into their several duties—but their work can only be done with the maximum of efficiency, if the wardens have properly done their preliminary work and carry out their duties properly while a raid is in progress.

Recent experience in RANGOON has shown how important it is to impress upon the people generally the necessity of taking shelter during an air raid. Though people may run away in panic from a place which they think is likely to be raided, yet those who remain are apt to regard

an air raid as some sort of spectacle, and to come outside to look on at it. That, at any rate, was what happened during the first air raid on RANGOON and was the reason why the casualties during that raid were so heavy. Generally speaking there is no shelter that will protect against a direct hit from a high explosive bomb, but there can be shelter from the deadly blast which is caused by such a bomb and from the splinters which come from it, on explosion, and which scatter harmfully for a considerable distance. It is as safe as it can be anywhere, when an attack is being made with high explosive bombs, to be in a well built house with strong walls made of stone or brick. Good protection can be had in such a house in an interior room which is far from anything in the way of glass windows or ventilators. If there are such glass windows or ventilators it is better to remove them. The pasting across them of strips of paper has been found not to be a sufficient preventive of their splintering. For those who have not pucca houses, the provision of split trenches is necessary. These were the means of saving many lives in RANGOON. But any form of shelter is better than none. If, however, one is caught by an air raid when out of doors and there is no kind of shelter available, the danger is lessened if one lies on the ground with the face towards it but not touching it, resting on ones elbows, with ones hands covering ones ears. It is also essential to keep ones mouth open in such circumstances. If one has not a cork or a piece of stout rubber handy to put into ones mouth, one can at least stuff a handkerchief or a piece of cloth into it. Anything to keep it open. Another danger of remaining in the open during an air raid comes from the anti-personnel bombs which are designed to cause death to those who stay, or come, outside instead of seeking, or remaining, in shelter. Gas has so far been little used in this war. As against gas bombs the only protection is the respirator. The respirators now provided give absolute protection against gas, as I have found from personal experience.

The obscuring of lights is a very important part of A. R. P. work. It is extraordinary from how far off the lights of a town can be seen, so as to act as a guide for an approaching enemy to his destination. When MADRAS was fully lit up, the light from it could be seen from the sea at a distance of sixty miles. Since the lighting has been reduced and general obscuration has been enforced, the distance from which it can be seen out at sea has been reduced to twelve miles. It is, therefore, most important that any place which may possibly at some time be raided,

even if the prospect of a raid appears very remote, should get into the way of obscuring its lights constantly, and should even from time to time have a complete black-out, such as would be necessary if there was an actual attack by air. From the partial obscuring of lights it is an easy step to a total eclipse of them. The public has first to get accustomed to a partial obscuration, and then the experiment may be made of having a complete black-out. In that way any defects can be brought to notice, and remedied while there is yet time. Such experimental black-outs are being tried from time to time in MADRAS and have been done very thoroughly, and the experience gained from them has been very valuable. During such black-outs all traffic has to be stopped, and no one is allowed to go out of doors or to move about in the streets except those who are actually engaged on some A. R. P duty. The public is then taught exactly what to do in the event of a raid and learns a lesson which is well worth some temporary inconvenience.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

7—3—42 to 11—3—42.

Java has fallen after a gallant fight which will go down in history as a feat of heroism of a small but brave people. The N. E. I. Government was the first to scent danger in the FAR EAST and warn the Allies. On December 8 when BRITAIN and AMERICA declared war on JAPAN JAVA made haste to arm herself. The Allied command was also established here in preparation for a counter-offensive, on the arrival of re-inforcements, which unfortunately came too late and insufficiently. Meanwhile Dutch naval and air forces—assited by U. S. bombers—scored great successes in the Java Sea, inflicting heavy damage on the enemy but they too became exhausted. Fighter-support was lacking for planes as well as aerodromes. As the Japanese had absolute superiority in the air their landing with an armada of a hundred warships, which took place by the end of February, was practically unopposed though individual Dutch forces flung themselves in the enemy's path fighting to death. Major General Gordon Bennett's remarks that 'the Imperial troops defeated the Japanese advance every time they attacked and that the moment the Japanese were put on the defensive they withdrew' could thus apply only to individual units. But as the enemy

was 10 times stronger on land the general advance could not be stopped. BATAVIA, the capital was the first to fall, then BANDOENG .the military headquarters. SOURABAYA was scorched. Dr. Van Mook Lieutenant Governor-General of DUTCH EAST INDIES has reached AUSTRALIA *en route* to LONDON *via* WASHINGTON. There is no confirmation of the Japanese claim that JAVA has capitulated. According to the latest message 'fighting is going on in East and West BANDOENG and East JAVA' and in SUMATRA.

The Battle for Burma.—During the entire week the battle for BURMA raged round PEGU. Initially the enemy operated in individual units of about a dozen men mounted on bicycles and equipped with portable wireless sets, artillery and supplies being brought up on Siamese elephants. But when the army emerged into the open paddy fields, it was the turn of the R. A. F. and and the A. V. G. and of the newly arrived British tanks ('The Christmas Tree') to play havoc on the enemy's forces.

The Fall of Rangoon.—Life in the city of RANGOON continued to be normal till Saturday last. Anglo-American air successes kept the RANGOON port open for the safe arrival of the British tanks: the docks were functioning without hitch and on March 6, H. M. I. S. *Hindustan*, assisted by the R. A. F. intercepted an enemy landing and captured an enemy craft.

But a temporary isolation of the British forces at PEGU on the 7th coinciding with a simultaneous Japanese landing on the banks of the Bakir and RANGOON rivers compelled the evacuation of the city of RANGOON. During the withdrawal, the enemy's attempt to cut the RANGOON–PROME Road near HMAWBI proved abortive: Imperial forces broke through the cordon after heavy fighting. A small Japanese patrol about a hundred strong was observed to have crossed the RANGOON—MANDALAY Road north of PEGU and to be heading for THARRAWADDY on the RANGOON—PROME Road, the only remaining communication centre from RANGOON to Upper BURMA. The Japanese claim to have occupied THARRAWADDY stands unconfirmed. On the other hand according to the latest reports the situation on the PROME Road has stabilised around THARRAWADY.

If would also appear that the enemy has dug himself in 10 miles north of PEGU and is heading for BASSEIN the only remaining port in Burmese hands.

RANGOON city has been scorched, and all its dock installations, oil refineries and machinery, including those at SYRIAM have been destroyed.

Lieutenant General Sir H. R. L. G. Alexander has succeeded to the Burman Command.

The R. A. F. raided MOULMEIN.

The battle for Australia has probably begun. The Japanese have landed forces at SALAMUA, LAE and FINSCHHAFEN in NEW GUINEA where they are busy building depóts. Australian planes have heavily bombed these planes, hitting transports. A Japanese flying boat was set on fire at GASMATA in NEW BRITAIN. A major campaign is developing in S. Pacific.

U. S. submarines operating in Far Eastern waters have sunk one Japanese destroyer and one naval tanker and damaged three cruisers and an aircraft carrier. Another U. S. submarine has sunk three enemy freighters, and one passenger and one cargo ship in Japanese waters. U. S. bombers raided the harbour of SALAMUA with the result that two enemy ships were left sinking, four were on fire and one was beached.

American fighters shot down an enemy plane on March 10 off MIDWAY Island in Central Pacific.

Philippines.—There is practically no fighting in BATAAN. In MINDANAO there have been some skirmishes. Tomoyuki Yamashita who operated in MALAYA is said to have succeeded General Homma—rumoured to have committed *Hara Kira* owing to his failure to destroy MacArthur's forces.

General.—It is worth noting as the 'Annalist' has pointed out that SUMATRA, the CELEBES, BORNEO, NEW GUINEA and JAVA, though in enemy's hands are firm being consolidated. Though the Japanese hold the towns and roads, garrisons and guerillas continue to fight. There is still a 'BATAAN Peninsula' everywhere. Dr. Gerbrandy, Netherlands Prime Minister in LONDON has declared, 'our work and fight are being continued on new lines: our fleet is being re-organised.'

Russia.—The Russian drive continues relentlessly round LENINGRAD, beyond MOSCOW, and in the DONETZ and the CRIMEA. The 16th army trapped at STARAYA RUSSA described as Hitler's headache is being strangled to death, forced to eat horse-flesh to prevent starvation!

The event of the week is the recapture of YUKHNOV and KIROV and the pursuit of the 26th and 263rd enemy infantry divisions. The 7th German Parachute division before LENINGRAD and 48th German division in the central front were wiped out. The direct road between VIASMA and SMOLENSK has been reached.

RUSSIA is reconstructing the sections she has recovered. 60 coal mines in the DONETZ and MOSCOW areas have been restored and have resumed full production.

Thaw has commenced in Southern RUSSIA flooding the roads and terrain. There is no chance of a spring offensive before the end of April.

Libya.—Free French Forces under General La Clerc, Commander of the Chad area, after a drive, over 900 miles of difficult desert—isolated, barren, sandy, rocky and waterless, have captured FEZZAN in the MURSUK region, south-west of EL GAZALA and TEMESSA—200 miles north-east of MURSUK.

R. A. F. carried out a torpedo-attack on Monday in the Central Mediterranean, on an enemy convoy escorted by units of the Italian Fleet. A merchant vessel and a destroyer were set on fire and a German plane was shot down.

RHODES, SAMOS, BENGHAZI, and TRIPOLI were raided.

R. A. F. Air Raids over GERMANY and German occupied territories have become intensive, the Ruhr, the enemy's principal industrial district being the main target. Attacks were also launched on the Matford factory at POISY near PARIS, the power-station at COMMINES, the railway yards at ABBEVILLE, the naval base at SAINT NAZAIRE, and the power and industrial plant at MAZINGARBE, and on OSTEND and HAVRE.

The American Technical Mission to India.—Owing to the changed military situation in south-east ASIA the time has come for a further intensification of the efforts to develop the industrial resources of INDIA. The U. S. is accordingly sending a Technical Mission to report on the possibilities of American assistance in such developments, in fulfilment of the recommendations of the Chatfield Report, the Roger Mission and the Eastern Group Council. In the early stages AMERICA was buying mica, manganese and other raw materials from INDIA and supplying her in return with motor vehicles, machine tools and other things. With the establishment of the Indian Purchasing Mission the

requirements have become clarified, and the visit of the Technical Mission is expected to further and accelerate these efforts.

Lease/Lend.—In a message to the Congress analysing working of the Lease/Lend Act in its first year of operation President Roosevelt has stated :—

1. that the total value of the aid in the year was 257,045,241 dollars,

2. that the sales were principally guns, tanks, air-craft machinery, ships, food and raw materials,

3. and that military missions were sent in connection with the supplies to RUSSIA to decide on the types of weapons required and to instruct the Russians in their use, to CHINA to equip and train the Chinese army for mechanised warfare, and to North AFRICA and IRAN to make sure that the supplies were properly serviced.

The U. S.—Alaska Highway planned to be completed within a year is being constructed to carry trucks and tanks protected from attacks from sea by Alpine country and from planes for half the year by coastal fogs and storms.

Matters Chinese.—(1) Marshal Chiang Kai-Shek has appointed Lieut.-General Stillwell of the U.S. Army to be Chief of Staff under him.

(2) CHINA is sending a Military Mission to WASHINGTON and the head of the Mission will participate in the War Conferences of the United Nations and work for closer military co-ordination between U. S. and CHINA.

(3) CHINA is concluding a Treaty of Friendship with IRAQ, providing for exchange of diplomatic and consular representatives and for opening trade relations.

(4) CHINA observed Burma Day on Sunday (8th) last and will celebrate India Day on Tuesday (17th) next.

Miscellaneous—

(1) *An Anglo-American Carribbean Commission* has been set up to promote agriculture, health, housing, education, social welfare and public finance in the Carribbean area.

(2) *An Anglo-Greek Agreement* has been concluded settling the principles on which the armed forces of GREECE will be organised and developed for co-operation with the Allies' armed forces.

(3) *Ministerial change in Iran*—Mr. Farughi, former Iranian Premier faced with a cabinet crisis has resigned and been succeeded by Mr. Ali Soheily.

(4) Britain's national expenditure has risen to 14½ millions a day.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date. / Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
2—3—42 (Monday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—			
The Naval bases at KIEL and WILHELMSHAVEN (where the German warships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* are sheltering).			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
The harbour and shipping at BENGHAZI.			
SICILY. (By British planes)			
The harbour, shipping, engineering works, drydocks and a sea-plane base at PALERMO.	Big fires started. A large cargo ship sunk.		
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and enemy aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		11 planes.	60 planes.
FAR EAST—JAVA. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy landing units in JAVA.			
BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy concentrations near PEGU.			
NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
Japanese occupied aerodrome and Japanese shipping at GASMATA.			
3—3—42 (Tuesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
The RENAULT works at BILLANCOURT (outskirts of PARIS). **The port** of EMDEN. **Laying mines** in enemy waters.		2 planes.	
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Patrol activity over LIBYA.			
The harbour at TRIPOLI.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and enemy aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		6 planes.	18 planes.
FAR EAST—JAVA. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy occupied aerodromes and enemy mobile columns in JAVA.			
NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome and other military buildings in GASMATA.	Heavily damaged.		
4—3—42 (Wednesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes.)			
No information available about day and night bombing.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Military objectives at BENGHAZI and TRIPOLI.		3 planes.	
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		13 planes.	43 planes.
FAR EAST—PACIFIC. (By American and British planes).			
MARCUS island (midway between BONIN and WAKE islands).			
JAVA. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrme a KALIDJATI.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
5—3—42 (Thursday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
	No information available about day and night bombing.			
	LIBYA. (By British planes).			
	Targets at TRIPOLI and BENGHAZI. **Offensive sweeps and patrol activity over** LIBYA.		No loss.	
	RUSSIA. (By Russian planes.)			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		14 planes.	79 planes.
	FAR EAST—JAVA SEA. (By American and British planes).			
	Enemy occupied aerodromes in JAVA.			
	BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
	Enemy infiltrations near PEGU.			
	TIMOR. (By American and Britsh planes).			
	Enemy bases in TIMOR.			
	NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
	Enemy occupied bases including GASMATA.			
	An aerodrome near KOEPANG.			
6—3—42 (Friday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—				
	Enemy occupied aerodromes in FRANCE.			
	LIBYA. (By British planes).			
	Enemy shipping and the harbours at BENGHAZI and TRIPOLI.	A vessel sunk.		
	RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		7 planes.	35 planes.
	FAR EAST—JAVA. (By American and British planes).			
	Japanese landings and reinforcements in JAVA.			
	BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
	6 miles long supply columns behind the enemy lines in BURMA.			
7—3—42 (Saturday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—				
	The enemy naval base at ST. NAZAIRE.		1 plane.	
	LIBYA. (By British planes).			
	The harbour at TRIPOLI.			
	Patrol activity throughout CYRENAICA.			
	RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front.		6 planes.	36 planes.
	FAR EAST—PHILIPPINES. (By American and British planes).			
	Enemy positions near MANILA BAY.			
	JAVA. (By American and British planes).			
	Fresh Enemy landing in JAVA.			
8—3—42 (Sunday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY :—				
	The MATFORD factory at POISSY **(near** PARIS).	All in flames.		
	The power station at COMINES.			
	The railway yards at ABBEVILLE.		1 bomber and 3 fighters.	2 fighters.

NIGHT :—

The greatest industrial district of ESSEN.

Other objectives in the RUHR.

The docks at OSTEND and LEHAVRE.

Enemy airfields in HOLLAND and Northern FRANCE.

LIBYA. (By British planes).

The harbour at TRIPOLI.

RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).

Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole front. — 10 planes. — 39 planes.

FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).

Japanese troops near PEGU.

NEW BRITAIN (By American and British planes.)

Reconnaissance over NEW BRITAIN.

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Allies.
3—3—42 (Tuesday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
	No information available.			
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
	MALTA.		1 plane.	
	SUEZ CANAL. (By German planes).			
	SUEZ canal area.			
	EGYPT (By German planes).			
	ALEXANDRIA.			
	FAR EAST—JAVA. (By Jap planes).			
	BANDOENG.			
	NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
	PORT MORESBY.			
4—3—42 (Wednesday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—				
	A town on the East ANGLIAN coast.			

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories—*cont.*

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Allies
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
	MALTA.			
	FAR EAST—AUSTRALIA. (By Jap planes).			
	PORT DARWIN.			
5—3—42 (Thursday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
DAY :—				
	A point on the east coast of ENGLAND.			1 plane.
	RUSSIA. (By German planes).			
	MOSCOW.			4 planes.
	FAR EAST—JAVA. (By Jap planes).			
	BANDOENG.			
6—3—42 (Friday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
	No air activity at all.			
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
	MALTA.			
	FAR EAST—JAVA. (By Jap planes).			
	BANDOENG and other remaining military bases in JAVA.			
	NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
	Reconnaissance over NEW GUINEA.			
7—3—42 (Saturday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
DAY :—				
	No air activity.			
NIGHT :—				
	South coast of ENGLAND.	Very slight damage.		
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
	MALTA.			1 plane.
	RUSSIA. (By German planes).			
	MOSCOW.			3 planes.
	FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
	Port MORESBY.			

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories—*cont.*

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies
8—3—42 (Sunday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
	A few points on the east and north-east coast of ENGLAND.	Slight damage and 1 person killed.		
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
	MALTA.			
	RUSSIA. (By German planes).			
	Vicinity of MOSCOW.			3 planes
	FAR EAST—BURMA. (By Jap planes).			
	PROME.			
9—3—42 (Monday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
	No information available.			
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
	MALTA.			
	RUSSIA. (By German planes).			
	Vicinity of MOSCOW.			4 planes.
	FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
	Port MORESBY.			

SIDE LIGHTS.

SPECULATIONS. With the fall of JAVA in the east, and the advent of spring close at hand in the west speculation is rife on what the next move will be on the military chess-board. What will JAPAN, GERMANY, the Allies do next ?

The fall of JAVA has cut INDIA from AUSTRALIA, and broken the land-bridge between the two countries. The occupation of RANGOON and parts of NEW GUINEA has supplied spring-boards from which to attack INDIA and AUSTRALIA respectively. The seizure of SINGAPORE and BATAVIA has exposed the Indian ocean as far as the African coast. Japanese armies have been massed on the Siberian front. Where will JAPAN strike next—westward into INDIA, northward against RUSSIA, or southward against AUSTRALIA? RUSSIA has been warned of a probable combined German-Japanese pincer movement against her from east and west ; AUSTRALIA thinks that an attack on her is imminent ; INDIA'S Viceroy has sounded the note of caution. Another Axis pincer movement with a Japanese and German junction in the MIDDLE EAST as the ultimate objective is also mentioned. MADAGASCAR, the heel of ACHILLES in the Indian ocean is in Vichy's hands. Should it share the fate of French INDO-CHINA—Darlan may give away 40 French war-ships to the Nazis in spite of protestations to the contrary—this will become

another Japanese spring-board endangering communications to the Red sea, the Persian Gulf, through the CAPE, between AMERICA, and East and North AFRICA, INDIA and AUSTRALIA. GERMANY is said to oppose the Japanese occupation of MADAGASCAR. But this looks like deceit; for what would not Hitler give, for the time being of course, till it serves his ends—to have these communications cut off, to have the eastern and southern sections of the Empire isolated or at least, to force a diversion of the Royal Navy. So speculation is rife: *Where will Japan strike next?*

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WHAT WILL THE NAZIS DO? Snow has thawed, and though the Russian plains are now deluged with the melting waters, the roads will soon dry up and spring will arrive in April for the resumption of hostilities. What will GERMANY do? Strike through to the CAUCASUS, violate TURKEY'S neutrality, strike at GIBRALTAR, raid BRITAIN, or will she be hounded back to BERLIN? GERMANY is said to be preparing frantically for a spring offensive.

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WHAT WILL ROMMEL DO? Join in a pincer attack on Suez, or simply neutralise Ritchie and guard TRIPOLI?

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AGAIN, WHAT WILL THE ALLIES DO? What will the Allies do to Rommel; where will they start their general offensive, will it be Anglo-American on the French coast; Indo-Chinese in Burmese soil, or American-Australian from AUSTRALIA? Will THAILAND or French INDO-CHINA be overrun? When? What? How? Echo answers 'When? What? How? In fact speculation is to a large extent idle when the secret can be known only to half a dozen people in each High Command, and each side is waiting for his adversary's move. Whatever the future has in store our duty is clear—not to lose heart, but to prepare, and look forward to victory.

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AN ANTIDOTE. But says the *Jitterbug*—'SINGAPORE has fallen and JAVA and RANGOON. The skies are falling and the world is coming to an end.' Long faces and wry never won victory. None but the brave deserve it. Here are some observations from soldiers, statesmen and journalists, which, if they mean anything should serve as antidotes to fear :—

1. *General J. C. Smuts*, Prime Minister, SOUTH AFRICA: 'Anyone who says, with the present alignment of powers that the Allies are going to lose the war shows a complete ignorance of history. GERMANY has filled the

millions in the countries she had captured with hatred and passion against her. This was one of the biggest factors in this present war. These simple facts can have only one outcome—the complete defeat of GERMANY'.

2. *Dr. Van Mook*, Lieutenant Governor, N. E. I.: 'This war is one big fight and victory can just as well be won in the waters of the Pacific as in the wide plains of RUSSIA'.

3. *Sir Stafford Cripps*, Leader of the House of Commons: 'At this grave moment in the fortunes of the British Commonwealth of Nations, do not let us allow our view to be obscured by the dark clouds that at present engulf us, dimming the more distant, but none the less certain, hopes of the future.......Modern war on the gigantic and far-flung scale upon which it is now being waged is not finally won or lost as the result of territorial gains here or there. It is eventually won by the resources in the man-power and in materials that can be mobilised behind one side or the other.

4. *Sir Walter Citrine*, Trades Union Congress. 'The Nazi and the Jap have bitten off more than they can chew.'

5. *Daily Herald*: At the moment the Empire team is batting on a sticky wicket. Our best bats are still to go in and the scoring will show that we can give as well as take punishment. This is not only a test match but also a timeless test.'

We think we have quoted enough for the occasion but we cannot resist to quote Dr. Goebbels also, who unexpectedly has blundered, for once, into truth. In *Das Reich* he writes :—

'The fall of SINGAPORE, though it has deeply upset the British public does not mean the end of the British Empire. The continuation of the British Empire can be considered as endangered when it is struck at its roots, and branches are unable to obtain sources of power. Empires do not collapse in days, weeks, or months.'

But the fate of GERMANY, and with it, of her accomplices—is sealed. His Excellency the Governor of MADRAS reminded his audience at VELLORE, 'In the last war, between the years 1914—1918 there was nothing but German victories, one after another, but in July 1918, the tide turned and the Germans were beaten. Once defeat set in, GERMANY could not stand! ......I am fully confident that in the final battle in this war absolute victory will be for ourselves and our Allies. I say this without attempting to gloss over the failures that have taken place. It is no use pretending that we can have victory immediately, it is a long way off. We have to march many miles but we are determined to do so whatever may befall in the way'.

GERMAN PREPARATIONS on a vast and unprecedented scale are being made behind the fighting lines for the coming death grapple with RUSSIA in spring. Though GERMANY has already suffered terrible losses in RUSSIA her man-power is still formidable, and this she tries to augment to the tune of one and a half to two millions, by levies from occupied zones—CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FRANCE, BELGIUM and ITALY and by foreign contingents from her satellites, RUMANIA and HUNGARY contributing 500,000 each. The strength of the Bulgarian contingent is not specified. But how far these armies can be raised, with HUNGARY and RUMANIA quarrelling over TRANSYLVANIA, and with BULGARIA'S half-heartedness remains to be seen. RUMANIA has already lost 200,000 of her men in ODESSA and the CRIMEA. BULGARIA secretly wishes for a Russian victory and has condoned guerilla risings in SERBIA.

Similarly GERMANY is trying to increase her armaments production by importing foreign labour to the tune of 2,100,000, including 100,000 Poles, 270,000 Italians, 140,000 Czechs, 120,000 Belgians, 108,000 Yugoslavs, 93,000 Dutch, 80,000 Slovaks, 50,000 French, 34,000 Hungarians, 30,000 Danes and 190,000 Croats, Swiss, Rumanians etc ; and this be it remembered, in addition to 1,900,000 prisoners of war, not to speak of German workers themselves, including extensive female labour and boys and girls of 14.

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RUSSIA'S PREPARATIONS are even more formidable. She is a group of Republics with a total population of 193,000,000, trained to fight for their home-land. Her armies in the present fighting line are as fresh and well-equipped as the innumerable fresh armies in training in the rear for the spring offensive. Of labour she has an immense store. By a decree of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U. S. S. R., all the able bodied are mobilised for war-production.

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WHAT MAY HAPPEN. It would be foolish, of course, to predict—as foolish as to talk wisely after the event, what the final issue of the struggle is going to be. But a few facts are worth noting. In the ensuing encounter forces of colossal magnitude will operate ; but the German armies will be largely a motley crowd and their equipment largely ineffective, by reason of the presence of the foreign elements that have been compelled to fight or to labour, with no heart in the struggle or in the armaments preparation. Matched against this miscellaneous rabble will stand the All-Soviet Army—'a solid human bloc', fired with patriotism and fighting to be free. For a shortwhile GERMANY'S weakness will not be apparent. For some time Hitler will whip and tune up the soldiers and the

workers. But when the struggle becomes protracted, as it is going to be, forced service will crack up and the German plans will collapse like a castle of cards.

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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHINA DAY. China Day has come and gone; but the celebrations which were fittingly extensive and popular will have been in vain if they end where they began, in mere effervescent sentiment. The visit of the illustrious duo, Chiang and his consort, the first of its kind in Indo-Chinese relations was not a mere courtesy visit but a mission, military, economic and political, to consolidate a common front for defensive and offensive purposes, to open communications, to improve trade relations, to fight INDIA'S battle on Burmese soil and keep INDIA's enemy at bay in Chinese territory, and last but not least, to expose Japanese perfidy. In his farewell message the Chinese Generalissimo stressed the new military co-ordination between the two countries which, he declared, 'laid the foundation for our common victory in the Pacific ocean, which alone is more than sufficient to make up for the recent loss of SINGAPORE. 'Free CHINA' is no more the old ramshackle empire that it was. Chiang and the Soong sisters do not represent the old Chinese philosophical passivity but herald the dawn of a new defiant spirit. CHUNGKING has carried on an epic fight against a brutal foe, daily growing stronger, the more his country is bombed, her 400 factories thriving under gunfire. Her scars reveal the ruthlessness of the oppressor as well as the heroism of her sons and daughters. Thus modern CHINA is both a warning and an incentive.

INDIA and CHINA have now covenanted to utilise their immense resources in man-power and materials to meet the common danger. Towards the same end AMERICA and BRITAIN have accommodated CHINA with loans, respectively of 500,000,000 dollars and £ 50,000,000. In INDIA the labours of the Eastern Group Council and the Roger Mission will soon be supplemented by the American mission to promote production.

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CO-PROSPERITY AT WORK. Co-prosperity has already begun to operate in the newly occupied territories :—

(1) 'A large number of Japanese have applied for permission to emigrate into MALAYA and the PHILIPPINES.'

(*Saigon broadcast, Feb. 21*).

(2) 'Japanese will be the official language for the whole of East ASIA.'

(*Saigon broadcast, Feb. 24*),

(3) JAPAN takes French-Indo-Chinese rice, maize, coal and minerals, duty free, in exchange for Japanese manufactured goods which French INDO-CHINA does not want.

(4) JAPAN took away 45 million BAHT (Siam money) in exchange for gold which was never sent.

(5) French INDO-CHINA has handed over all her agricultural and mining interests to TOKYO.

(6) The worst has yet to be told—bestiality worse than robbery, of which Mr. Eden made a shocking statement in the House of Commons on Tuesday—the atrocities committed in HONGKONG:—

'50 officials and men of the British Army were bound hand and foot and bayoneted to death'.

'Ten days after the capitulation the wounded were still being collected from the hills and the Japanese were refusing permission to bury the dead.'

'Women, both Asiatic and European were raped and murdered.'

'One entire Chinese district was declared a brothel regardless of the status of the inhabitants.'

This is 'Co-prosperity'—*bushido*.

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NAZI ROBBERY. At the other end of the Axis the Nazi robber is busy taking over textiles and heavy manufactures from BELGIUM and FRANCE, cars and workers from ITALY, iron and steel products from LUXEMBURG and LORRAINE. The Nazi converts Polish wood into paper money to buy Polish lands.

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INFALLIBILITY. One of the outstanding qualities of Churchill which marks him out for greatness is his frank admission of errors and difficulties. As soldier, statesman and historian he knows that men and nations are fallible and rise on the stepping stones of their mistakes. What a contrast to Hitler's pose of infallibility and invincibility, to the deification of the Emperor in JAPAN. Yet the Allied mistakes are nothing compared with the colossal blunders of the Axis. GERMANY was caught out by the DUNKIRK evacuation; GERMANY over-estimated BRITAIN in 1940 when she had only one division of battle-worthy troops in British soil; over-estimated the effects of the bombing of BRITAIN; under-estimated the possibility of Radio-Location, and the strength of RUSSIA. JAPAN too mistimed her attack: She let go 1940 when BRITAIN was pre-occupied elsewhere and AMERICA was still isolationist. This is Axis infallibility.

THIS BUSINESS OF CALLING NAMES.

AN AMERICAN DEFENDS BRITAIN.

by

Dorothy Thompson in the "Sunday Chronicle".

All right; all right. Yes, I know the show in Singapore wasn't so good. Yes, I know about complacency. I know they didn't follow the scorched earth policy. Yes—and you can't feel worse about it than I do. I know what it all means; may be I know what it means better than you do—the fall of Singapore.

Just the same I can't stand that cackling. Who is calling whose names? Is this war in the Far East the fault of the British? We in America talked for 18 months about whether this was our war. The British supported us in the Far East, not we the British. Do you remember Pearl Harbour? Were we so hot at Pearl Harbour?

I have read all those interviews with American citizens who came from Penang. The British didn't evacuate Americans properly. The British didn't have A.-A. guns. The British didn't this and didn't that.

THE LADY WITH THE SIAMESE CAT.

The lady with a Siamese cat had plenty to say as I remember. Listen, sister, you got home all right, didn't you?—you and your Siamese cat. Did it ever occur to you to offer one prayer of gratitude to God? If you weren't properly protected, what have you ever done to protect anybody else? Listen, sister, you get busy and join the A. R. P. service. Get busy; there's a lot to do right here. If things don't go well right here who will you blame?—the British?

The British didn't have to have war with Japan; they didn't have to have war with Hitler. Do you know that? They could have tossed the continent to the winds and made a deal with both our enemies against us. A military deal. A financial deal. A trade deal. All they had to do was to go Nazi. All they had to do was to agree about spheres of influence in the Western Hemisphere and the East. Hitler is still moaning they didn't do it.

Did you ever look at the map? There are 72,000,000 Anglo-Saxon members of the English speaking world outside the United States. They are scattered all over.

ALONE FOR A YEAR AND HALF.

Not quite two years ago they had the Germans at the Channel. There weren't any A.-A. guns in Britain either. Forty-seven million people on a little island—they could starve in a fortnight. For a year and half they held

the world at bay—alone. That doesn't make any impression on you? Fifty thousand of them died right in Britain. I can't remember that any whimpered. When the King of Belgium made a separate peace Reynaud cried "Treason!" Churchill said: "We reserve judgment".

Did you ever read Lincoln's inaugural address? Take a look again. "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether". Listen to the Vichyites in New York. "Britain let us down". Not one mumbling word from Britain about a France that handed over everything to Hitler. Not a word. Only faith in France—when even France didn't have any. You would think, listening to some, that you want Britain to lose. Careful, careful. Be quiet and pray.

"LAST REFUGE OF CIVILISED WORLD".

You don't think much of the British Empire? No? Well, brother! If Britain goes, write "finis" to Western civilisation. Or do you think, perhaps, Americans can carry it alone? You don't know what England means, my friend. England is very tired; England is old. Yet, though it slay me, I will tell you this: England is the last refuge of the civilised world. Pray for England. I say England—England so proud, England who knows humility.

Have you heard the British say a word against Americans? Did they crib over Pearl Harbour? Did they rush into print to talk of our smugness and complacency? Did you ever have an Englishman or Englishwoman for friend? Did that friend ever let you drown.

In the hour of her greatest disaster I, an American, write these lines to England. And I say to England: In spite of Singapore I sing with you "Land of hope and glory, mother of the free". I ask you to sing with me great songs of America: "Sweet land of liberty"; "Columbia, gem of the ocean"; "Mine eyes have seen glory"—songs written in the world's greatest language—the great language of resistance. There is a line in the "Star-Spangled Banner"; "Stars through perilous fight"; "There are stars in England".

And don't believe the lady with the Siamese cat is America. America knows where she is going—and she knows who is going with her: Holland Norway, Russia. China, India. Yes India. And Great Britain.

HOW SINGAPORE'S FALL AFFECTS INDIA. PERIL MUST BE FACED SQUARELY. FUTILITY OF LAMENTING PAST MISTAKES. "VICTORY ONLY COMES AT THE END OF A WAR"

by

Lord Hailey (*In a recent B. B. C. Talk.*)

THE MENACE TO INDIA.

The loss of the great Singapore naval base adds enormously to the difficulties which we and America and our Dutch allies will have to face in regaining command of the Eastern seas.

To those of us also whose thoughts are so much bound up with India, there is an additional reason of profound concern. The war which at first had seemed a distant menace to her is now at her door and the black clouds which once she saw only afar off are lowering overhead.

Burma has been attacked, and the strength of the invaders can now be rapidly increased. That there is danger of an attack on India is obvious, though the form it may take, and the extent of the danger involved, still remains to be seen.

JAPAN'S PRETENCE.

We cannot be in any doubt what this menace really involves to the Indian people. But Japan and her friends will no doubt pretend that they do not want to take possession of Burma or of India. They will say that they only want to ensure that India's resources are not used by us against them, and that they are willing to leave to the Indians and to the Burmans full independence to rule themselves, subject to agreements which will secure Japan's military and commercial relations with them.

HER REAL INTENTIONS.

General Chiang Kai-Shek would no doubt best be able to prove how hollow this pretence is, for it is exactly the demand which Japan once made of China herself. The truth is that India and Burma have not been brought into this conflict merely because of their connections with Great Britain. They have come into it because Japan has coveted their resources and has sought to possess their country, just as she has sought to gain possession of China.

INDIA'S DUTY AT THE PRESENT HOUR.

India has already made a great contribution to the war. No one of us here can think without deep emotion or without profound admiration of the gallantry which her soldiers have shown in the last two years, but she is called upon now to make far greater efforts and it must today be very clear to

her that any efforts which she has to make will be made not only in the interest of our cause or of that of our allies, but in her own.

It has been said in some quarters that India has deep sympathy with China, but that she cannot help her because she could do so only by giving assistance to Great Britain.

China can hardly be expected to appreciate the logic of such sympathy She wants help. Every blow that is struck at the Japanese, wherever it is struck and by whomsoever it is struck, must clearly be of interest to her.

Men can only be judged by the manner in which they face their greatest difficulties. There are those whose only contribution in overcoming their troubles is to lament the causes which have produced them or to attack those whom they believe to be responsible for them. Such men are of no great use at any time, they are worse than useless in a crisis such as this.

There are, fortunately, others, who are content to put such feelings aside until the difficulties have been overcome, and who are ready, in the main, now, to devote all their energy to finding means to overcome them. They, after all, are the people who win through in the end, and it is to men such as these that India must look for guidance today.

I may, like many in India, feel regret that steps were not taken some years ago to prepare India and Burma for an emergency such as this by organising the production of munitions or by greatly increasing the armed forces.

But on the other hand, I reflect how exceedingly few of us there were, either in Great Britain or in India, who were prepared before this war began to make the great sacrifices which would have been needed to prepare for it.

EASY TO SPECULATE: HARD TO ACT.

We may regret also that circumstances made it necessary to expend on the campaign in Africa and the Mid-East the resources which perhaps would have helped to defend Malaya. But I reflect again, that there must be few who, if faced with the necessity of making the decision 18 months ago, would have decided to abandon the Near East to Italy and to Germany, and who would have decided to strengthen our defences against the possibility of attack from Japan.

It is easy to speculate now what might have been done in the past, or to prophesy what the result might have been if we had acted differently, but I suggest to you that it is more profitable to consider the means we possess for regaining the position which we have temporarily lost. It is these which now must have first place in our minds.

SOME SOLID FACTS AND THEIR LESSONS.

Russia, which seemed at one time to be near total defeat, is slowly but surely pushing the Germans back, and re-organising her forces for striking further blows at her enemy. We can be certain now that, whatever happens, she will never yield.

America, which has the greatest capacity in the world for the production of arms is now in the fight to the death. China, in spite of her long sufferings, remains unbroken, and as resolute and determined as ever.

We ourselves in Great Britain have suffered losses. But our strength both in equipment and in trained men, is immensely greater than it was a year ago. We and our allies have now that unity of command without which we could never have given full effect to our unity of purpose.

These are not fancies in which to indulge to brighten our spirits. They are solid facts, and it is on them that we build our confidence. In our long history we have suffered many reverses. They have not weakened our resolution in the past, and they will not weaken it today.

All our history shows the truth of the lesson which that great soldier and statesman, General Smuts has drawn from his own life, so full of adventure and of fine achievement. Speaking a few days ago, he said this: "I have been involved in war most of my life, and war is the most risky up and down business there is in life, but victory never comes in the beginning of a war, nor in the middle—it comes at the end."

QUESTION OF AIR SUPPLY ROUTE FROM INDIA TO CHUNGKING.

AEROPLANES AND GLIDERS AS PACK-HORSES.

While the Chinese push forward mightily on the gigantic task, already three years old, of completing a road to India through Assam which will replace the Burma Road, now is the time when we should be ready to open up yet a third road—an air route of supply from India to Chungking. There are difficulties in plenty and many opportunites to say "it can't be done" but the fortunes of war are against us (writes the *News Chronicle's* Aeronautical Correspondent). The brains, determination and courage of men who fly can turn an aeroplane and glider into pack-horses, bringing vital supplies into China high over passes where trade once flowed between the old world of the east and the new empires of the west.

The Burma Road is cut at the Rangoon end where the vital and only railway runs north through Mandalay to Lashio. India is now the source

of supply. From Calcutta, which replaces Rangoon as the supply port, an aeroplane would have to fly between 1,500 and 2,000 miles to Chungking. From the railhead at Silchar, in Assam, linked directly with Calcutta, the distance is something over 1,000 miles. Intermediate landing grounds could be prepared on this air route which would skirt high mountains. Undoubtedly they would be in most difficult places, but if the Chinese can build roads through this inaccessible country, they should be able to make a chain of landing fields through the same territory in less time.

GERMANY'S JU-52.

The Ju-52 three-engined monoplane which was the stand-by of the German airlines before the war for ten years has since war began been the pack-horse of the German army and air force. The Germans built thousands of them and are still making them. In all their campaigns the Ju-52 has carried troops and supplies and towed gliders. Now they have adapted the aircraft in a most ingenious way for the transport of light tanks and guns. The rear part of the fuselage is hinged at the top so that it can be folded up and forwards, tail-plane, rudder and all. Through the rear door thus made tanks or guns can be wheeled in complete, flown to their destination and quickly unloaded ready for use.

Contrary to the general impression, the glider is not a toy. A big aeroplane towing a large glider can double its own load. A Ju-52 tows at least one glider. Some reports speak of two and three. Larger aeroplanes can tow still larger gliders and deal with bigger loads. A glider with a wing-span of some 30 feet can carry a load of over two tons. A little mental arithmetic will show you what a glider can do. If we had 200 aeroplanes each capable of carrying a load of one ton and towing one glider with a load of two tons, this fleet could handle 600 tons in one fleet operation. These aeroplanes and gliders would be able to do the work of at least 300 lorries at ten times their speed.

GERMAN GLIDER'S FEATURES.

The standard German glider appears to be a craft with a wing-span of 80 feet and a length of 50. The fuselage is built of tubular steel and the wings are made of wood. It lands on the usual keel skid but for the take-off it is fitted with wheels which are dropped when the glider is in the air. This type of glider is being used for supplying Rommel's forces in Libya. It carries 12 fully equipped men with six tommy-guns and two machine-guns.

Reports from enemy territory show that the Germans are now building still bigger gliders. Some of them are equipped with low-powered motors, so the pilot when the trailing cable has slipped can make a low-powered landing or choice of the spot on which to set down.

STRONGER BOMBER COMMAND IN COMING SPRING.

FEATURES OF NEW HEAVY BOMBERS.

FLEXIBLE IN APPLICATION, INFLEXIBLE IN PURPOSE.

by

Wing-Commander L. V. Fraser.

Long-range strategic bombing has faded a little into the background during the past months of villainous weather, when the power of our attack had to be curbed. But there is no alteration in the policy or determination to hit Germany hardest where it will hurt most—on her own doorstep. **This coming spring and summer will find the Bomber Command far stronger and better equipped than at any time in the past. That strength and equipment will be used to good effect.**

The spearhead of our attack is the new heavy bombers—Stirlings, Halifaxes and Manchesters, soon to be joined by Lancasters and American heavy bombers. Each of these aeroplanes can carry much heavier bombloads than their predecessors farther and faster, with more adequate defence and greater comfort for the crews. This latter point is as important as any, when a sortie may last as long as 12 or 16 hours. Each of the new bombers is thoroughbred, with years of experience and steady development behind it. Each comes of a long line of distinguished predecessors.

"DESCENDANT" OF HANDLEY-PAGE.

The **Halifax**, for instance, is a direct descendant of the Handley-Page V-1500 big four-motor biplane built in 1918 to bomb Berlin, a duty which had to be postponed for 22 years because the Armistice came before the V-1500 operated. The Stirling owes much to the successful evolution of the Empire flying-boats—the wings are almost identical. Its flying qualities were tested in detail nearly four years ago by a half-scale model in which everything was reproduced to scale, even to bomb-doors, gun-turrets and pilots' windows—everything, in fact, except the pilot.

The **Manchester** comes of a long line of great aeroplanes, but few people remember that an Avro Manchester two-motor bomber was produced in 1918. That was a biplane with a top speed of only 126 m. p. h., but as much in advance of its time as the Manchester in its new conception. The first Manchester of 1918 was Avro's 24th design. The Avro Manchester of to-day is the 179th. What wealth of experience and progress has gone into these 155 designs in 24 years!

Little may be said yet about the **Avro Lancaster**, except that it is probably the fastest four-motor aeroplane ever built, and at the same time carries one of the heaviest bombloads for a very long range.

STRIKING POWER GROWS.

Our striking power in the air grows each day as new bombers roll off the production lines. They have a tremendous job ahead of them, the difficulties and dangers of which should not be minimised. Yet the thousands of tons of bombs which they are to carry to Germany each month—even each week—in future will play a vital part in undermining the German war effort, and–just as important–the German will to war.

Their chief task is the bombing of Germany itself, yet these bombers are as flexible in their application as they are inflexible in their purpose. They can be bombing ports one day and army communications the next. They can seek out tactical objects in support of land forces on one sortie and be used against naval targets on the next. Had the *Bismarck* escaped the British Navy in the Atlantic, more than a dozen Stirlings were waiting their chance to show the weight of their attack. This versatility and strength of our bombing offensive is going to be one of the decisive factors in this war. We cannot have too many bombers.

BOMBING OF GERMANY TO GO ON.
LARGER FORCES THAN EVER.
THIS WINTER'S ATTACKS NO INDEX.

by

Wing-Commander L. V. Fraser.

Strategic bombing of Germany will go on. It is not merely British policy but Allied policy as well and America is about to send some of her bombers to bases in England where they will reinforce the Bomber Command of the R. A. F. in their offensive. There have been fewer attacks this winter so far on Germany than in the last and some people may have wondered if this meant a change of plan. It certainly means no such thing. Weather alone has cut down the British air offensive but it has not cut it down to anything like the extent many imagine. In January alone the Bomber Command was over Germany on ten nights and all but the first of these attacks, when Hampdens made widespread attacks in North-west Germany on a night of bad weather, were of considerable weight.

In the present stage of war, with the importance of sea power even more greatly stressed, it is essential to bomb Germany's ports, naval bases and so to interrupt the production of submarines and the repair of warships. Such attacks aim also at impeding Germany's supplies by sea to the Russian front.

SPRING IS COMING.

Spring is coming and we should judge what can be done, not by the results of a period of comparative inactivity during a stretch of exceptional weather—the weather has been worse for bombing this winter than the weather of any time during the last 16 years—but by what was done last spring when the weather was neither exceptionally good nor bad. It was in spring last year on the nights of April 7 and 8 that the shipyards of Kiel were burnt and blasted. No one expects to judge the full effects of a bombing attack by what can be seen from the air while it is going on but it was permissible to expect that Kiel had had a bad time when a pilot who came home said: "The only way to put out the fires would have been to push the whole place into the sea."

THE PILOT WAS RIGHT.

Reconnaissance showed that the pilot had been right. Large parts of the Deutschewerke shipyards—once the imperial shipyards of the Kaiser's Germany—of the Germania yards and of the naval arsenal were definitely knocked out. There is no point in describing the damage in detail; one sample will do—a whole area just south of the Deutschewerke yards where shipyard stores were kept was completely gutted by a major conflagration. In this area buildings hundreds of feet long were utterly destroyed by fire together with many smaller ones. One of the main power plants of Kiel was badly damaged and in between this plant and the Germania yards the residential area where the skilled workers of Kiel lived was so badly blasted that it must almost certainly have been evacuated.

When Kiel was attacked on the night of April 7 it was by a bigger force than had up to that time been sent to Germany. A year later, in spite of all commitments of the R.A.F., greater forces are ready to attack Kiel or any other town in Germany with even more devastating effect. As the force increases, the ratio of damage increases. It has already been noticed again and again that on an average 200 bombers can do far more than twice the damage done by a hundred. This is perfectly easy to explain. The greater the force, the more chance the bombers have of breaking through the defences, distracting night fighters, confusing the gun crews on the ground and giving the fire brigades more work than they can do. And with a large force great fires will be started at the very beginning of the attack to serve as a guide for the bombers that follow. That large force stands ready in Britain to-day.

"RUSSIA WILL SMASH GERMAN ARMIES THIS YEAR"

by

***Philip Jordan** formerly in Russia, in a cable to the **News Chronicle**.*

Cairo, February 18.

HITLER'S SPRING OFFENSIVE.

I reaffirm every conviction of ultimate victory that for the last six months I have been sending regularly from either Moscow or Kuibishev. I believe with absolute conviction that the Russian armies are going to smash the German armies this year, whether or no aid is forthcoming in the nature of a continental adventure by the British fighting forces.

Civil and military authorities are divided as to when precisely victory will come. The former believe that by means of sustained political warfare a state of affairs in Germany is being produced which will make it impossible for Hitler to stage the spring offensive on a scale that would make it worth his while They estimate, therefore, that victory is possible in the spring.

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS: STRATEGIC RESERVES.

I am absolutely convinced that they are wrong. So are their military leaders (which, after all, is what matters), who do not believe that victory can be achieved before autum. The more sober-minded of them—and, now that I come to think of it, I have yet to meet a Russian military leader who is not sober-minded—believe that Hitler is preparing a blow for them in the spring on a scale greater even than that which he delivered from October 2 onwards until December 6, when the Russians brought into play Frunze's doctrine of "strategic reserves" and began a successful offensive that continues to this day. (Frunze is the Russian Clauswewitz).

Hitler hurled 51 fully equipped divisions on Moscow; it is believed in Russia that when spring comes he will throw in an even greater number. They realise also that what material losses Hitler suffered in the first seven months of the campaign he can still more than make good during the winter. What he cannot replace are all the highly trained junior officers and N. C. O's who have been killed. But, quick to learn and quicker even to adapt themselves to circumstances, Russia's military leaders are convinced that they have already profited by the mistakes they made in the opening months of the war and that, whatever may be the force of the blow, they can meet it.

The Russian staff, therefore, are convinced that, whatever may be the force of the blow being prepared for them at this hour in the factories, workshops and barracks and on the training grounds of occupied Europe, they can meet it. They are not boastful. Many think that once more it may be necessary to give ground, but not all the ground lost in the first six months.

In the meantime " strategic reserves " are being built up in quantities that, were the figure known, might hardly be believed. Outside a limited circle—probably not more than 50 men in the world—no one knows that Russia's industrial potential is infinitely greater than any foreigner supposes.

RUSSIAN COUNTER OFFENSIVE.

True, Russia could do with more tanks and more bombers than she has got at present, but I believe that the shortage is mainly due now to the inevitable loss of output during the period of factory transition. Since it is believed that after one more supreme effort Hitler will be unable ever to stage another offensive or appreciable menace, the Russians, when they have countered what is coming in the spring, will once more pass to the offensive. And this time in greater numbers and under more advantageous conditions, pouring in fresh highly trained men intent on revenging themselves for all that the Germans have done to their country and their people. That is without, of course, allowing for the hazards of war.

GERMAN ROUT, NOT WITHDRAWAL, THE END.

Next time what so far has been a retreat will, it is believed, become a rout, which the German withdrawal from Moscow could not be called. There is practically no evidence available that the Germans retired in a hurry or disorder when pushed back. But no praise can be too high for the patience displayed by the Russian General Staff during those dangerous days when the enemy menaced Moscow from a not great distance. They waited, in accordance with Frunze's doctrine, until that precise moment when the ferocity of the German attack showed signs of declining, and then they threw in all they had. They may be wasteful but they plan, as it were, with an allowance for waste.

AMERICAN PRESS COMMENTS.

The New York Times, February 13.—Within the space of 15 minutes to-day a cruiser and two destroyers were launched and the keels of two escort vessels laid—one of the most telling displays of industrial man-power ever witnessed in this country. The destroyers according to schedule were not to have been launched for four months and the cruiser for more than six months from now. The shipbuilding speed-up to hasten a two-ocean navy made possible the launching of all three in high tide to-day.

The New York Daily News, February 16.—We already have about 1,700,000 men in the Army. It is planned to have between 3,600,000 and 4,000,000 by the end of this year. The Army Air Force alone is scheduled to expand to 2,000,000—against the Luftwaffe's estimated 1,250,000 and the R. A. F.'s approximately 1,000,000 members. With a land army and army air force of this size and with 500,000 to man a two-ocean navy we should be able to make Japan sorry that it ever smacked us on the nose and Hitler wish he had never heard of the United States. When we get going we will be using fresh men and brand new material against enemy forces which by that time should be pretty shoddy.

The Vindicator, February 18.—Take a look back over Britain's huge efforts: The British in France fighting through the bitterness of Dunkirk after the French and Belgians quit. The British fighting all alone against Germany and Italy. The expedition to Norway. The expedition to Greece. The expedition to wipe out the Fifth Column in Iraq; and the little war in Syria—now the life-line of supply for Russia. The wiping-out of Mussolini's East African empire. The two successful Libyan campaigns. Gibraltar and Malta held. Communication lines kept open to Suez—through the Mediterranean to Suez and all the way around Africa to the United States and Canada; to Australia and India. The taking of the most devastating and sustained bombing ever visited on any country, survivors shaking clenched fists at the sky, shouting: "We'll never quit!"

The Chicago News, February 6.—We can be certain now that men really want to fight in this war. It is nearing two months since Pearl Harbour. Our voluntary enlistment sytem has been swamped. The Navy has more men offering than it can use and has asked the boys to be patient and stay at work until they can be taken in. Yet it is the first war we never fought that we began with a rather large force already enlisted under the conscription system. Everybody knows that we are prepared to draft all men needed to defend the country. There has been no volunteering campaign—no brass bands, red fire, oratory or even drum beats. No; they are just a lot of guys who are angry and want to fight.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

LECTURE LXXXVI—(*Batch 3*).

1942—

March	... 14, Saturday ...	Municipality	...	6.30 p. m.
	15, Sunday ...	Alangudi	...	6.00 p. m.
		Kottaikkadu	...	6.30 p. m.
	16, Monday ...	Annavasal	...	6.00 p. m.
		Kilakkurichchi	...	6.30 p. m.
	17, Tuesday ...	Kulipirai	...	6.00 p. m.
		Sevalur	...	6.30 p. m.
	18, Wednesday	Valaramanikkam	...	6.00 p. m.
		Embal	...	6.30 p. m.
	19, Thursday ...	Ramachandrapuram	...	6.00 p. m.
		Rayavaram	...	6.30 p. m.
	20, Friday ...	Malaiyur	...	6.00 p. m
		Karambakkudi	...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE LXXXVII—(*Batch 4*).

	21, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
	22, Sunday ...	Tiruvappur	...	5.30 p. m.
		Karaiyur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Idaiyattur	...	6.30 p. m.
	23, Monday ...	Konnaiyur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Melavegupatti	...	6.30 p. m.
	24, Tuesday ...	Vadavalam	...	6.00 p. m.
		Sammattividuthi	...	6.30 p. m.
	25, Wednesday	Andakkulam	...	6.00 p. m.
		Killanur	...	6.30 p. m.
	27, Friday ...	Nartamalai	...	6.00 p. m.
		Uppiliyakkudi	...	6.30 p. m.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai, 1,000—14-3-42.